AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings:

1.   (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method of sharing an instant messaging

environment comprising:

transmitting an instant messaging environment identifier corresponding to a selected

      instant messaging environment from a transmitting instant messaging application

      to a receiving instant messaging application, wherein an instant messaging

      conversation between said transmitting instant messaging application and said

      receiving instant messaging application is displayed in a history window on said

      transmitting instant messaging application and a history window on said receiving

      instant messaging application, and wherein the selected instant messaging

      environment affects at least one of:

            a) how said receiving instant messaging application behaves when the

                  instant messaging conversation includes certain content;

            b) the appearance of the history window on said receiving instant

                  messaging application; and

            c) a definition of a user interface command processed by said receiving

                  instant messaging application;

receiving the instant messaging environment identifier at the receiving instant messaging

      application; and

activating the selected instant messaging environment in the receiving instant messaging

      application.

2.   (Previously Presented) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 further including determining whether the transmitting instant messaging application is an eligible instant messaging application.

3.   (Previously Presented) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 further including determining whether the selected instant messaging environment corresponding to the transmitted instant messaging environment identifier is stored on a node comprising the receiving instant messaging application.

4.   (Previously Presented) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 further including determining whether the selected instant messaging environment corresponding to the transmitted instant messaging environment identifier has expired.

5.   (Previously Presented) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 further including downloading the selected instant messaging environment from a source that stores the selected instant messaging environment.

6.   (Previously Presented) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 wherein the instant messaging environment identifier is transmitted with an instant message.

7.   (Previously Presented) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 wherein the selected instant messaging environment specifies a background for the history window on said receiving instant messaging application.

8.   (Previously Presented) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 wherein the selected instant messaging environment specifies an animation for the history window on said receiving instant messaging application.

9.   (Previously Presented) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 wherein the selected instant messaging environment specifies functions that execute when certain words are included in the instant messaging conversation.

10.   (Previously Presented) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 wherein the selected instant messaging environment specifies functions that execute when certain combinations of words are included in the instant messaging conversation.

11.   (Previously Presented) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 wherein the selected instant messaging environment specifies functions that execute when certain emoticons are included in the instant messaging conversation.

12.   (Previously Presented) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 wherein the selected instant messaging environment includes a link.

13.   (Previously Presented) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 wherein the selected instant messaging environment includes a watermark.

14.   (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 further including tracking that an instant messaging environment identifier is sent.

16. (Previously Presented) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 further including tracking that a certain function contained in an instant messaging environment is executed.

17. – 23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Presented) A computer program product for sharing an instant messaging environment, the computer program product being embodied in a computer readable medium and comprising computer executable instructions for:

transmitting an instant messaging environment identifier corresponding to a selected instant messaging environment from a transmitting instant messaging application to a receiving instant messaging application, wherein an instant messaging conversation between said transmitting instant messaging application and said receiving instant messaging application is displayed in a history window on said transmitting instant messaging application and a history window on said receiving instant messaging application, and wherein the selected instant messaging environment affects at least one of:

    a) how said receiving instant messaging application behaves when the instant messaging conversation includes certain content;

    b) the appearance of the history window on said receiving instant messaging application; and

c) a definition of a user interface command processed by said receiving

instant messaging application;

receiving the instant messaging environment identifier at the receiving instant messenger

messaging application; and

activating the selected instant messaging environment in the receiving instant messaging

application.

25.   (Previously Presented) A system for sharing an instant messaging environment

comprising a first instant messaging application configured to:

transmit an instant messaging environment identifier corresponding to a selected instant

messaging environment; and a second instant messaging application configured

to:

receive the instant messaging environment identifier at the second instant

messaging application; and

activate the selected instant messaging environment in the second instant

messaging application;

wherein an instant messaging conversation between said first instant messaging

application and said second instant messaging application is displayed in a

history window on said first instant messaging application and a history

window on said second instant messaging application, and wherein the

selected instant messaging environment affects at least one of:

a) how said second instant messaging application behaves when the instant

messaging conversation includes certain content;

b) the appearance of the history window on said second instant messaging

application; and

c) a definition of a user interface command processed by said second

instant messaging application.

26.   (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method of sharing an instant

messaging environment comprising:

transmitting an instant messaging environment identifier corresponding to a selected

instant messaging environment from a transmitting instant messaging application

to a receiving instant messaging application, wherein an instant messaging

conversation between said transmitting instant messaging application and said

receiving instant messaging application is displayed in a history window on said

transmitting instant messaging application and a history window on said receiving

instant messaging application, and wherein the selected instant messaging

environment affects at least one of:

a) how said receiving instant messaging application behaves when the

instant messaging conversation includes certain content;

b) the appearance of the history window on said receiving instant

messaging application; and

c) a definition of a user interface command processed by said receiving

instant messaging application;

wherein the receiving instant messaging application is configured to:

receive the instant messaging environment identifier at the receiving instant messaging application;

retrieve a stored instant messaging environment corresponding to the instant messaging environment identifier; and

activate the retrieved instant messaging environment in the receiving instant messaging application.

27. (Previously Presented) A computer program product for sharing an instant messaging environment, the computer program product being embodied in a computer readable medium and comprising computer executable instructions for:

selecting the instant messaging environment from a set of stored instant messaging environments; and

transmitting an instant messaging environment identifier corresponding to the selected instant messaging environment from a transmitting instant messaging application to a receiving instant messaging application, wherein an instant messaging conversation between said transmitting instant messaging application and said receiving instant messaging application is displayed in a history window on said transmitting instant messaging application and a history window on said receiving instant messaging application, and wherein the selected instant messaging environment affects at least one of:

a) how said receiving instant messaging application behaves when the instant messaging conversation includes certain content;

b) the appearance of the history window on said receiving instant messaging application; and

c) a definition of a user interface command processed by said receiving

instant messaging application;

wherein the receiving instant messaging application is configured to:

receive the instant messaging environment identifier at the receiving instant messaging

application;

retrieve a stored instant messaging environment corresponding to the instant messaging

environment identifier; and

activate the retrieved instant messaging environment in the receiving instant messaging

application.

28.   (Previously Presented) A system for sharing an instant messaging environment

comprising:

a memory configured to store a set of instant messaging environments;

a processor configured to select the instant messaging environment from the set of stored

instant messaging environments; and

an interface configured to transmit an instant messaging environment identifier

corresponding to the selected instant messaging environment, wherein an instant

messaging conversation between a transmitting instant messaging application and

a receiving instant messaging application is displayed in a history window on said

transmitting instant messaging application and a history window on said receiving

instant messaging application, and wherein the selected instant messaging

environment affects at least one of:

a) how said receiving instant messaging application behaves when the

instant messaging conversation includes certain content;

b) the appearance of the history window on said receiving instant messaging application; and

c) a definition of a user interface command processed by said receiving instant messaging application.

29. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method of implementing an instant messaging environment comprising:

receiving an instant messaging environment identifier at a receiving instant messaging application;

retrieving a stored instant messaging environment corresponding to the instant messaging environment identifier; and

activating the retrieved instant messaging environment, wherein an instant messaging conversation between a transmitting instant messaging application and said receiving instant messaging application is displayed in a history window on said transmitting instant messaging application and a history window on said receiving instant messaging application, and wherein the selected instant messaging environment affects at least one of:

a) how said receiving instant messaging application behaves when the instant messaging conversation includes certain content;

b) the appearance of the history window on said receiving instant messaging application; and

c) a definition of a user interface command processed by said receiving instant messaging application.

30.　(Previously Presented)　A computer program product for implementing an instant messaging environment, the computer program product being embodied in a computer readable medium and comprising computer executable instructions for:

retrieving a stored instant messaging environment corresponding to the instant messaging environment identifier; and

activating the retrieved instant messaging environment, wherein an instant messaging conversation between a transmitting instant messaging application and a receiving instant messaging application is displayed in a history window on said transmitting instant messaging application and a history window on said receiving instant messaging application, and wherein the selected instant messaging environment affects at least one of:

　　　　a) how said receiving instant messaging application behaves when the instant messaging conversation includes certain content;

　　　　b) the appearance of the history window on said receiving instant messaging application; and

　　　　c) a definition of a user interface command processed by said receiving instant messaging application.

31.　(Previously Presented)　system for implementing an instant messaging environment comprising:

an interface configured to receive an instant messaging environment identifier at a receiving instant messaging application;

a memory configured to store instant messaging environments; and

a processor configured to retrieve from the memory a stored instant messaging

environment corresponding to the instant messaging environment identifier and to

activate the retrieved instant messaging environment, wherein an instant

messaging conversation between a transmitting instant messaging application and

a receiving instant messaging application is displayed in a history window on said

transmitting instant messaging application and a history window on said receiving

instant messaging application, and wherein the selected instant messaging

environment affects at least one of:

    a) how said receiving instant messaging application behaves when the

        instant messaging conversation includes certain content;

    b) the appearance of the history window on said receiving instant

        messaging application; and

    c) a definition of a user interface command processed by said receiving

        instant messaging application.

32 – 33. (Canceled)

34.   (Previously Presented) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited

in claim 1 wherein the selected instant messaging environment affects how said

transmitting instant messaging application behaves when the instant messaging

conversation includes certain content.

35.   (Previously Presented) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited

in claim 1 wherein the selected instant messaging environment affects the appearance of

the history window on said transmitting instant messaging application.

36.   (Previously Presented) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 wherein the selected instant messaging environment affects a definition of a user interface command processed by said transmitting instant messaging application.